

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3838

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: STUDY ON USE OF WARNING TIME

REF: A. USNATO 3731; B. STATE 164177; C. USNATO 3526

SUMMARY: ASYG HUMPHREYS CONVENED AN INFORMAL MEETING IN HIS OFFICE OF SELECTED DEFENSE ADVISORS ON JULY 17 TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE STUDY OBJECTIVES AGREED TO BY THE JOINT WORKING GROUP (JWG) AT THEIR JULY 10 MEETING. THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS TEXT OF THE JWG DECISION SHEET OF THEIR JULY 10 MEETING, AND SIGNIFICANT POINTS ON THE USE OF WARNING TIME DISCUSSED AT THE JULY 17 MEETING OF DEFENSE ADVISORS. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE FOLLOWS BELOW TEXT OF THE DECISION SHEET OF THE JULY 10 MEETING OF THE JWG ON THE USE OF WARNING TIME (AC/295-DS(75)3): BEGIN TEXT

I. APPROVAL OF THE DECISION SHEET OF THE LAST MEETING  
DOCUMENT: AC/295-DS(75)2, DATED 29TH MAY, 1975

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1. THE JOINT WORKING GROUP:  
APPROVED THE DECISION SHEET OF ITS LAST MEETING.

II. STUDY ON THE USE OF WARNING TIME

REFS: C-M(72)3, DATED 24TH JANUARY, 1972  
DPC/D(73)1, DATED 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1973  
AC/295-DS(75)2, PARAGRAPH 4(A) AND (B)  
LETTER FROM THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION DATED 9TH JUNE, 1975

2. THE JOINT WORKING GROUP:

(A) AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITIONS:

(I) ANY STUDY TO BE UNDERTAKEN SHOULD RELATE TO THE PROCESS BY WHICH NATIONS AND NATO MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM PEACE TO WAR; PREPARATORY MEASURES WHICH NATIONS AND NATO COULD TAKE TO ENHANCE THEIR POSTURE AND READINESS SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT;

(II) THE STUDY SHOULD NOT AIM IN ANY WAY TO MODIFY THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM; THE MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE TAKEN AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE PROCESS OF NATO'S PREPARATION FOR WAR;

(III) THE STUDY NEED NOT CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE KINDS OF SITUATION ENVISAGED UNDER THE STATES ORANGE AND SCARLET;

(IV) THE STUDY NEED NOT BE RESTRICTED TO WARNING TIME AS DEFINED IN MC 161/75, BUT SHOULD ALSO

CONSIDER THE PERIOD UNDER STUDY AS STARTING WHEN NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICES IDENTIFY CHANGES IN RELATIONS BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES, BEARING IN MIND THE ESTABLISHED NATO CONSULTATION PROCEDURES, WHICH ACTIVATE NATIONAL PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES;

(B) THE CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED AND IT WAS AGREED THAT NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PREPARED AS A STARTING POINT TO IDENTIFY TWO OR THREE IMPORTANT MEASURES WHICH COULD BE TAKEN AT AN EARLY STAGE TO FACILITATE THE LATER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM OR NATO CONTINGENCY PLANS. SUCH MEASURES SHOULD BE SELECTED IN LIGHT OF THEIR CAPACITY TO DETER AGGRESSION, INCREASE DEFENCE READINESS, AND FREEDOM OF ACTION IN THESE SPHERES, AND TO GAIN THE MAXIMUM PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT.

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3. THE JOINT WORKING GROUP:

AGREED TO HOLD THE NEXT MEETING DURING THE LATTER  
PART OF AUGUST 1975.

END TEXT

2. ON JULY 17 ASYG HUMPHREYS CONVENED IN HIS OFFICE AN INFORMAL MEETING OF US, FRG, NORWEGIAN, CANADIAN, NETHERLANDS AND UK DEFENSE ADVISORS, AS WELL AS IMS PLANS AND POLICY DIRECTOR, MG TORP, TO DISCUSS, INTER ALIA, DECISION SHEET OF JULY 10 MEETING OF THE JWG ON USE OF WARNING TIME (REPORTED REF A). HUMPHREYS (WHO IS CO-CHAIRMAN OF JWG WITH MG TORP) INFORMED DEFENSE ADVISORS IN EFFECT THAT HE DID NOT APPROVE OF PROPOSITIONS AND STUDY OBJECTIVES CONTAINED IN DECISION SHEET AND AGREED TO BY JWG ON JULY 10. HE RECOMMENDED THAT DEFENSE ADVISORS CONSIDER REFOCUSING STUDY TO CONCENTRATE ON MEASURES WHICH NATO AS A WHOLE COULD TAKE TO MAKE BEST USE OF WARNING TIME. WITH THE OBJECT OF FINDING WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE JWG SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ATTACH TIME INDICES TO CERTAIN CRUCIAL AND IMPORTANT MEASURES OF THE ALERT SYSTEM AND TO RELATE THAT TO THE AMOUNT OF WARNING TIME AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. US DEFENSE ADVISOR LEGERE, EXPLICITLY SUPPORTED BY FRG (BG SCHUNEMANN) AND NORWEGIAN (LEINE) REPS, DISAGREED WITH PROPOSAL TO CHANGE DECISION SHEET TO REFLECT HUMPHREYS' PROPOSITIONS. LEGERE POINTED OUT THAT DEFENSE MINISTERS, DRAWING ON LESSONS CONFIDENTIAL

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LEARNED FROM THE 1973 MIDDLE EAST WAR, REQUESTED A STUDY ON HOW NATO NATIONS COULD MAKE THE BEST USE OF WARNING TIME TO INCREASE DEFENSIVE READINESS AND DETER AGRESSION. COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSITIONS AND STUDY OBJECTIVES AGREED TO BY THE JWG ON JULY 10, HE SAID THAT THESE ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JWG'S TERMS OF REFERENCE AND CORRECTLY FOCUS ON NATIONAL ACTIONS TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF WARNING TIME.

4. MOST OF THE OTHER DEFENSE ADVISORS SUPPORTED US POSITION AND HUMPHREYS TURNED DISCUSSION TO ANOTHER SUBJECT. MISSION COMMENT: HUMPHREYS SEEMS DETERMINED TO PURSUE STUDY ON USE OF WARNING TIME ACCORDING TO HIS WELL-KNOWN PREDILECTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. ALTHOUGH WE SEE LITTLE VALUE IN MATCHING (A) SCENARIO ORIENTED WARNING TIME WITH (B) TIME REQUIRED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN MEASURES ENVISAGED IN THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM, WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEWS BY AUGUST 20 ON (A) HUMPHREYS'S STUDY OBJECTIVES AS OUTLINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, (B) ON PROGRESS MADE BY JWG TO DATE, KEEPING IN MIND MAJOR REPORT DESIRED BY WASHINGTON FOR SPRING, 1976 DPC MINISTERIAL (PARA 8, REF B) AND (C) GUIDANCE REQUESTED IN PARA 8, REF A.  
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**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO USNMR SHAPE  
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